

the property could, in fact, cost substantially more than what it will cost now which will cost the taxpayers of Douglas County, the Natural Resource District, substantially more money to acquire it and may, in fact, make that a development area as opposed to a recreational facility which is badly needed in the urban area. I would urge this Legislature to allow the Natural Resource District to purchase this property, deed it to the state free and clear, and allow for more recreational facilities and to do this in an expeditious manner. If we, in fact, refer this to committee, what will happen is is that we will lose two weeks of desperately needed time, January is rapidly coming to an end, and the Resource District Board will not meet again until February and this whole process could, the HUD could then, in fact, send it to public bidding where it would cost the citizens of that area a great deal more money to purchase it, if, in fact, they would purchase it at all and I just want to add one last thing.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up.

SENATOR NEWELL: Is that it would be preferable to having, drawing further development to the northwest.

PRESIDENT: Your time is up, Senator. Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I have a little selfish motive on this because a development like Lonergan Lake is going to take some pressure off of my district but we cannot deny the fact that Omaha does need recreational facilities. I have worked with Dave now for some time on this and I know that he has worked hard at it. We have had several meetings to try to work out something to take the pressure off of Omaha and surrounding areas. Omaha does need recreational facilities. No one has twisted the NRD's arm to go in there with 2.2 million dollars and purchase this land. They have been looking at it for some time and now is the time to go. We are under the gun as far as time as Dave has alluded to. They need to know if the state is going to take this over once they have purchased the land. As Senator Newell has mentioned, if the NRD does not purchase this because the state will not accept this, it probably is going to go into subdivisions. We are going to lose this tremendous possibility for an acquisition in the Omaha Metro area. I think those in Omaha certainly recognize the need that we need more facilities in the eastern part of the state. I think this is a great opportunity for the state to go ahead in this area and relieve some of the pressure in the eastern part. I would hope that the members would concur and move to adopt this resolution. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: I am having a little problem with this resolution also. I know that the Game and Parks Commission take on ground that they can't develop now in the first place. In the second place, this 2.2 million dollars put out by the NRDs, certainly that particular NRD is not going to pay all that. They are going to try to get some of the one million dollars a year that we put into the